

Executive Registry
81-9610
General Counsel
81-10758

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4 November 1981

Dear Mrs. Bush:

Because of your past association with the Central Intelligence Agency, I am writing to you in the name of the many dependent spouses who loyally serve the CIA mission in this country and abroad. Patricia Ryan, President of the Association of American Foreign Service Women, has encouraged me to do so. Former CIA Director William Colby is also supporting this effort.

As you may already know, the Foreign Service Act of 1981 gives to dependent spouses of Foreign Service officers rights to a proportionate share of the employees' survivor and retirement benefits. At the time of divorce or widowhood these dependents can be legally awarded a share of benefits that will ensure a decent standard of living for them in their old age.

AAFSW members did much of the groundwork that led to these provisions in the 1981 Act. AAFSW women are now talking to members of Congress concerning the needs of wives divorced or widowed before the Act's enactment. Many of these women are in difficult financial circumstances. Their problems can only become worse over time as the result of old age and inflation.

Unfortunately, none of these benefits can accrue to the spouses of CIA officers because CIA staff members who serve abroad generally retire under the separate CIA retirement program, CIARCS. To remedy this situation,

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I have written to the Congressional Select Committees on Intelligence requesting that similar assistance be extended to CIA dependent spouses. (My statement concerning the unique demands made upon CIA spouses--cleared by CIA--is enclosed.)

We believe that helping dependent spouses will benefit the CIA mission in the future: Possible breaches of security in soliciting welfare assistance will be avoided. CIA recruitment, we believe, will be helped by definite commitments to the other half of career couples. The morale of dependents serving abroad will be improved because their service is recognized and rewarded.

We ask your help in this matter, in any way you can. We shall be happy to talk with you if you desire further information. We shall be extremely grateful.

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I am sending this letter to Patty Ryan for her endorsement and forwarding to you.

Sincerely,

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cc: Mr. Colby

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REFERRAL

To: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Date: December 16, 1981

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:
____ Vice President's signature.
☒ ~~Under his signature~~
Mrs. Bush's signature
____ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
____ Direct reply.
____ Furnish information copy.
____ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
____ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
____ For your information.
____ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS: 11 Jan 82 - From CIA Draft copy of Ltr for [redacted] dated 6 Jan 82
forwarded to VP, Staff Assistant.

W.C. Atzert

Description:

1 Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____
To: The Vice President's Wife
From: [redacted]
Date: 4 November 1981
Subject: Benefits for CIA wives

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By direction of the Vice President

W.C. Atzert
W. C. ATZERT
Staff Assistant

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